Bulletin #2011-006 15 – September - 2011

Subject:
Miscellaneous rule changes

Overview:
Effective 10/1/2011, the following rule changes will go into effect.

1. Add the following definition to Article 1.9:

   Super Special Stage

   Spectator-oriented stage held on a closed course.

   Rationale: This definition is needed for other rule changes below.

2. Replace Article 2.1.A.3 with the following:

   3. Each competitor entered in a Rally America event must hold a valid Rally America Regional or National Rally license.

   Rationale: Rules allowing foreign license holder are being changed to help cover Rally America's license holder insurance costs while maintaining the spirit of license reciprocity agreements.

3. Replace Article 2.1.D.1 with the following:

   1. For Canadian residents who hold valid CARS licenses respectively, the fee for a Regional Rally License is $50. For all others (including United States residents), the fee for a Regional Rally License is $125. The License is valid for driving or co-driving duties.

   Rationale: See the rationale for #2 above.

   Note: The license fee amounts listed here are not final and may change before the start of next season.

4. Replace Article 2.1.E.3.d with the following:

   d. License holder receives a printed rulebook and license~~, and patch~~.

   Rationale: Patches are no longer distributed to license holders.

5. Replace Article 2.1.E.3.e with the following:

   e. License holder may contact Rally America for media and sponsorship information ~~receives one sponsorship kit, and may purchase additional kits at cost~~.

   Rationale: Sponsorship kits are no longer distributed.

6. Remove Article 2.1.E.3.f.

   Rationale: This is being removed to allow for more flexibility in how team and result information is displayed online.

7. Replace Article 6.4.A.12 with the following:

   12. Hoods shall be fixed closed with hood pins accessible from the outside. Other fastening devices (inside or outside) shall be rendered inoperative, except for the secondary catch, which may be retained.

   Rationale: This change is being done to make the rule less ambiguous.

8. Add the following as the last paragraph to Article 7.5.I:

   After the final MTC of a rally, competition vehicles may be held until released by the Event Steward. This may be referred to as "parc ferme", but, technically, it is not. Competitors and crew may touch the competition vehicle. However, they may not repair it without permission from a steward and may only do so under observation of a scrutineer.

   Rationale: The parc ferme/expose at the end of the rally needs to have its boundaries established.

9. Replace Article 7.7.C.2 with the following:

   2. Completed all stages in their entirety (except for super special stages), as prescribed by the instructions in the route book; an instruction consists of all columns of a numbered line. ~~Non-compliance will result in the competitor being assessed the slowest time for the stage for the first infraction, and exclusion for the second.~~

   Rationale: Super special stages are primarily intended for spectators. In combination with #10 and #13, this change is intended to reduce the disadvantage of damaging your car while attempting to entertain the spectators.

   Rationale: In combination with #11 and #14, this change moves the time assessment and penalty listed at the end of this Article to Article 8.

10. Replace Article 8.1.A with the following:

    A. One-second for each second taken to traverse a stage, except when Article 8.1.F, 8.1.G or 8.1.H applies.

    Rationale: This change allows stages to be scored with a time other than the actual time taken to traverse the stage.

11. Add the following as Article 8.1.F:

    F. The slowest time for the stage when the competitor has been observed blatantly short-cutting the stage (first offense), as per Article 7.7.C.

    Rationale: In combination with #9, this change moves a time assessment from Article 7.7.C to Article 8.1, where it belongs.

12. Add the following as Article 8.1.G:

    G. When a stage has been stopped, for those competitors who did not complete the stage, the most suitable of the slowest times (as determined by the stewards), as per Article 7.7.D.

    Rationale: In combination with #10, this change explicitly allows a time assessment that was previously only described in Article 7.7.D and describes it in Article 8.1 with the other time assessments.

13. Add the following as Article 8.1.H:

    H. Bogey time for a Super Special Stage that a competitor is unable to complete.

    Rationale: See the first rationale for #9 above.

14. Add the following item to Article 8.2.C:

    x. Exclusion for a second offense of blatantly short-cutting a stage, as per Article 7.7.C.

    Rationale: In combination with #9, this change moves a penalty from Article 7.7.C to Article 8.2, where it belongs.

15. Add the following as Article 8.2.E:

    E. Reconnaissance Penalties

        1. If an event official determines that a competitor was driving in excess of 5 mph over the speed limit, the competitor will be disallowed from participating in reconnaissance for the remainder of the event as well as at the next event entered where reconnaissance is offered.

        2. Competitors reported to have exhibited unsafe behavior during reconnaissance will be called, along with the Individual(s) reporting the behavior (or a representative), to meet with a steward. The steward will determine whether the behavior was unsafe.

           The meeting will be held in a timely manner. It does not need to be conducted before competition, but notice of the meeting must be posted on the Official Notice Board no later than the evening following the end of reconnaissance.

           If a competitor is found to have exhibited unsafe behavior, the penalties are as follows:

           a. First offense: the competitor will be disallowed from participating in reconnaissance at the next event entered where

reconnaissance is offered.

b. Second offense: the competitor will be suspended from participating in reconnaissance for the next three events entered where reconnaissance is offered.

c. Third offense: the competitor will be suspended from participating in reconnaissance for 12 months.

3, Penalties incurred during reconnaissance will be applied to both the entered driver and co-driver.

Rationale: This change standardizes penalties for actions that occur during reconnaissance.

16. Replace Article 8.3.C with the following:

C. Claims Against Competitors

Claims submitted against the actions of a fellow ~~another~~ competitor must be submitted no later than ~~within~~ 30 minutes after ~~of~~ the claimant's in time at the final MTC.

Rationale: These changes are intended to make the existing rule easier to understand.

17. Replace the first two paragraphs of Article 8.3.D with the following three paragraphs:

D. Claims Against Vehicles

A claim (protest) against the legality of a competition vehicle by a fellow competitor shall be lodged no later than the protester's arrival at the final time control (MTC) of the event.

A claim (protest) against the legality of a competition vehicle by the Competition Director, the Chief Scrutineer, or their delegate, shall be lodged no later than the time of posting of the Provisional Results.

Rationale: These changes are intended to differentiate when competitors may submit a claim against another competitor's vehicle from when others may do so.

18. Replace Article 9.6.D.2 with the following:

2. Eligibilty

Any competitor holding a Rally America regional competition license is eligible to register for one of the Regional Championships~~, as are CARS, FMAD or FIA licensed competitors (subject to the limitation below)~~. All competitors registered for a specific Regional Championship will accrue points at events in that region as well as out-of-region events.

Rationale: See the rationale for #2 above.

19. Replace the second paragraph of Article 9.6.D.4 with the following:

Only Rally America regional events will award points in the Regional Championships.

Rationale: Rally America Regional Championships should be determined based on results from Rally America regional rallies.

20. Replace the last paragraph of Article 9.6.D.4 with the following:

In the awarding of points for championship purposes, the finishing positions held by competitors not eligible ~~registered~~ for that regional championship will not be counted ~~be ignored~~. For example, if an ineligible driver finishes 2nd, an eligible driver in 3rd place will be awarded 3rd place points.

Rationale: These changes are intended to make the existing rule easier to understand.

21. Replace Article 10.2.A.6.a with the following:

a. Weight: The vehicle's minimum weight is 2,900 lbs.

The following exception has the indicated minimum weight:

- Mazda 323GTX with a B6 engine (adjusted displacement less than 2750cc): 2600 lbs.

The vehicle weight is determined according to Article 10.1.H.

Rationale: The previous rule would allow a current-specification WRC car to be entered and have a 300 lbs. weight advantage over other Open Class vehicles.

Questions regarding this bulletin received by RallyCar from licensed Drivers and Co-Drivers will be answered in writing.